



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) refers to a group of diseases that cause airflow limitation and breathing-related problems, including chronic cough, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, severe bronchiectasis, and asthma; and
- WHEREAS: COPD is a progressive disease that affects an estimated 24 million people nationwide, half of whom have not been properly diagnosed, and 70 percent of whom are under the age of 65. The nationwide cost of COPD in 2010 was \$49.9 billion, including health care services, indirect costs, and the deterioration of personal health; and
- WHEREAS: COPD affects 6.9 percent of Georgians and is the only top-5 cause of death that is not declining in prevalence. COPD is the third leading cause of death and the second leading cause of disability in the United States. An estimated 16.4 million workdays are lost due to COPD; and
- WHEREAS: Risk factors for COPD include smoking, exposure to air pollution, second-hand smoke, environmental or occupational irritants, and genetics. Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency, a genetic condition, may predispose individuals to develop COPD at a younger age; and
- WHEREAS: There is no cure for COPD. However, increased awareness, early detection, and proper health management may slow the progression of the disease and lead to an improved quality of life, lower health care costs, and self-sufficiency for those affected; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim November 2017 as CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 12th day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley
CHIEF OF STAFF